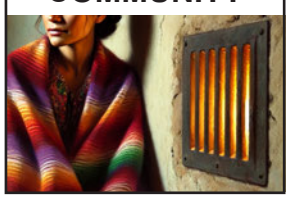
COMMUNITY



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Winter Utility
Assistance Programs

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 36, #4 • **November 27, 2024**

SPORTS

Page 8 – The Detroit Lions host the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving

Preparando para America's Thanksgiving Parade

America's Thanksgiving Parade® presentado por Gardner White, se fundó en 1924. Durante más de 75 años, el desfile ha sido un espectáculo único de fantasía, espíritu navideño y entusiasmo comunitario. El desfile ha crecido hasta incluir más de 75 estructuras, incluidas carrozas, globos y bandas musicales.

America's Thanksgiving Parade es el evento cívico más visible de Detroit, una demostración positiva de lo mejor que esta comunidad tiene para ofrecerle a su gente y a la comunidad estadounidense en general. ¡Ha sido nominado al Mejor Desfile Navideño por los premios 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards de USA TODAY! Los lectores pueden votar diariamente desde ahora hasta el 2 de diciembre en varios dispositivos en https://bit.ly/416ft85

El desfile se llevará a cabo la mañana del Día de Acción de Gracias, el jueves 28 de noviembre de 2024, de 9:00 a. m. a 12:00 p. m. en Detroit. Puede pagar estacionamiento en muchos lugares, a lo largo de las tres millas de la ruta del desfile, así como parqueos disponibles en la calle.

El Detroit People Mover está programado para reanudar sus operaciones a las 6:30 a. m. del miércoles 27 de noviembre, luego de las pruebas de su pista recientemente renovada y justo a tiempo para el lanzamiento de los eventos festivos de Acción de Gracias. El People Mover operará de lunes a viernes de 6:30 a. m. a medianoche y la tarifa es gratuita durante todo el año

Continúa en la pág. 4

Photo courtesy of / Foto cortesía de
The Parade Company

America's 2024 Thanksgiving Parade

The Michigan Thanksgiving Parade, now known as America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Gardner White, was founded in 1924. For more than 75 years, The Parade has been a one-of-a-kind spectacle of fantasy, holiday spirit and community enthusiasm. The Parade has grown to include more than 75 parade units, including floats, balloons and marching bands in procession.

America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Gardner White is Detroit's most visible civic event, a positive demonstration of the best this community has to offer to its people and the greater American community. It has been nominated for Best Holiday Parade by The USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards! Readers can vote daily now through December 2nd on multiple devices at https://bit.ly/416ft85

The Parade will take place on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 28, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Detroit. There is plenty of parking available for purchase along the three miles of the Parade route. Street parking will also be available.

The Detroit People Mover is scheduled to resume operations at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 27, following testing of its newly renovated track and just in time for the roll out of Thanksgiving holiday events. The People Mover will operate Monday - Friday

Contined on p. 4

Presentando al noticiero Voz Latina

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News y WDET 101.9 FM se enorgullecen de anunciar el lanzamiento de un innovador servicio de noticias llamado Voz Latina. El programa de radio de una hora, presenta la transmisión de artículos y reportajes del periódico semanal de EL CENTRAL y publicaciones en línea, para el beneficio de los oyentes de habla hispana en el área metropolitana de Detroit y una audiencia aún más amplia en línea en www.WDET/DRIS.

El Servicio de Información de Radio de Detroit (DRIS) de WDET, es el Servicio de Información de Radio/Audio del Sureste de Michigan para personas con discapacidad visual o aquellas que no pueden sostener físicamente materiales de lectura. Es un servicio de audiencia especial de WDET 101.9 FM Detroit Public Radio y la Universidad Wayne State, haciendo asociación con EL CENTRAL Hispanic News para leer su periódico en español, todas las semanas.

El servicio es gratuito para individuos y familias a través de servicios de transmisión en línea, que involucran a lectores voluntarios locales, que ofrecen lectura de más de 100 periódicos y revistas locales y nacionales por semana. El contenido de interés especial ofrecido por Voz Latina incluirá información oportuna sobre eventos especiales, perfiles de la comunidad y anuncios de servicio público. La asociación con EL CENTRAL representa la primera difusión de WDET a poblaciones étnicas en nuestra área en su idioma materno.

La primera transmisión en vivo tuvo lugar el pasado lunes 25 de noviembre, con la participación de nuestras primeras tres lectoras voluntarias Rita Aceves, Raquel Figueroa y Dolores Fraga. Se necesitan voluntarios hispanohablantes adicionales para expandir el programa a otros días de la semana. Para preguntas sobre el voluntariado, comuníquese con el editor en jefe de EL CENTRAL, Robert Dewaelsche (en español), al 313-580-0672 o info@elcentralmedia.com.

Voz Latina se transmite los lunes de 12 del mediodía a 1 de la tarde en WDET 101.9 FM.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

¡Escuche las noticias/Listen to articles from
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News!
Voz Latina
Todos los lunes / Every Monday 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Transmitidas por locutores de habla hispana/
Read by Spanish-speaking broadcasters
Rita Aceves, Raquel Figuroa, and Dolores Fraga.
wdet.org/dris
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Se solicitan voluntarios que hablen español, para leer las noticias.
Calling for Spanish-speaking volunteers to read for the broadcast.
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DRIS

Introducing Voz Latina

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and WDET 101.9 FM are proud to announce the launch of an innovative news service called Voz Latina. The one-hour radio program features the broadcast of articles and features from EL CENTRAL's weekly newspaper and online posts for the benefit of Spanish-speaking listeners in the Metro Detroit area and an even wider audience online at www.WDET/DRIS.

WDET's Detroit Radio Information Service (DRIS) is Southeast Michigan's Radio/Audio Information Service for people with low vision and visual disabilities or those who cannot physically hold reading materials. It is a special audience service of WDET 101.9 FM Detroit Public Radio and Wayne State University. This week they joined in a partnership with EL CENTRAL Hispanic News to read its newspaper in Spanish every week.

The service is free to individuals and families via streaming services by engaging local volunteer readers offering verbatim readings of more than 100 local and national newspapers and magazines per week. Special interest content offered by Voz Latina will include timely information about special events, community profiles and public service announcements. The partnership with EL CENTRAL represents WDET's first outreach to ethnic populations in our area through their native language.

The first live broadcast aired this past Monday, November 25, featuring our first three volunteer readers Rita Aceves, Raquel Figueroa and Dolores Fraga. Additional Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed to expand the program to other days of the week. For questions about volunteering, please contact EL CENTRAL Managing Editor Robert Dewaelsche at 313-580-0672 or info@elcentralmedia.com.

Voz Latina airs on Mondays from 12noon to 1pm on WDET 101.9 FM.

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Ballet with a Twist: Trocadero Delights the Audience

By Martina Guzmán

Seeing the Ballet Trocadero de Monte Carlo this past weekend at the Detroit Opera House was an experience filled with laughter, artistry, and sheer joy. This all-male troupe of talented dancers delivered stunning ballet performances with a twist, blending classical technique with humor and sharp wit. Their exaggerated gestures, comedic timing, and unexpected antics had the audience laughing out loud, while their genuine skill and dedication to the art form left everyone in awe.

The dancers embraced their characters with such flair and charisma that every moment on stage was both entertaining and impressive. It was a delightful mix of elegance and comedy, making the evening not only fun but also a celebration of how art can be reimagined to bring joy to everyone.

What I wish I had seen more of was Latinos in the audience. Cultural institutions like the Detroit Opera House provide us with opportunities to engage with other artists and broaden our artistic appreciation. The Detroit Opera House often presents works that draw on themes such as love, struggle, and resilience, which resonate deeply with Latino traditions and experiences.

Attending these events can inspire a greater appreciation for the contributions of Latino artists, such Mexican-born conductor Roberto Kalb, who has served as Music Director of Detroit Opera since 2022. By participating, Latinos would enjoy a world of artistic expression and also assert their presence, ensuring their voices are represented and celebrated in these spaces.

Martina Guzmán is an award-winning journalist and the director of the Race & Justice Reporting Initiative at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School.

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Detroit's Drinking Water Is Safe

Recent federally required notification caused public concern

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has distributed now federally-required annual notices informing the public of water service line material which raised unintended alarm about the drinking water quality. The notifications are about service line inventory and do not change the long-known fact that Detroit's drinking water is safe, according to DWSD Director Gary Brown.

The new annual notifications are required of all communities with municipal water service and lead service lines, mandated by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Lead & Copper Rule. The yearly letters will continue until all the lead service lines are replaced. The water service line is the pipe that delivers treated drinking water from the city's water main to inside the home or business. There is no lead in the water distribution system.

"Our drinking water is safe and DWSD has exceeded all the required tests in the past 20 years and more," said DWSD Director Brown. "Last week, we mailed notification letters to more than 200,000 residents and businesses about the type of service line you may have based on our updated records. The letters do not indicate any change in the water quality in the system nor at your property – in fact quality continues to improve as we replace lead service lines at a rapid pace."

Brown added, "The letter stating that a service line material is "unknown" is based on data available to us at this time. We continue to improve our records on a daily basis using mapping technology. We provide instructions on how you can find out whether you have a lead service line or not, and you can provide us that information to update our records."

Where can residents see the service line inventory? DWSD launched its first water service line inventory map online for public access using City data and with Ann Arbor-based BlueConduit's predictive modeling technology. This interactive map displays the verified or assumed status of residents' pipe material. Residents can access the map by visiting www.detroitmi.gov/lslr.

Residents are encouraged

to watch a video produced by the DWSD to learn how to navigate the map and determine if your water service line material is assumed or verified. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=24xcSZ9C6lo

How can residents verify service line material? Residents can learn how to verify what type of pipe material is their water service line by simply using a magnet and a penny. Use this helpful NPR tool to guide your steps: https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#. Once verified, take a picture of your pipe and submit results for records here: www.app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a907177537ac44329b3d-c8870b0613f8.

DWSD estimates there are 80,000 lead service lines in Detroit. Since 2018, DWSD has replaced 11,335 lead service lines to date and has accelerated the pace of replacement since 2023 with $90 million in federal funding and will soon add $30 million in local bond funds. Utilizing a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach, areas are being prioritized based on low income Census tracts, density of children or seniors in the homes, and age of housing stock. For a list of current and upcoming neighborhoods, visit www.detroitmi.gov/lslr.

What are the facts? The water leaving Detroit water treatment plants, operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), does not contain lead, but lead can be released into drinking water from lead service lines and home plumbing as the water moves from the water mains to your tap. Beginning in 1945, Detroit stopped allowing the installation of lead piping for water service lines. Homes before 1945 are most likely to have a lead pipe that connects the home to the water main, known as a lead service line. The lead in lead service lines, household plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up in tap water. The water provided to DWSD customers contains a corrosion inhibitor to help prevent exposure to lead service lines and other lead components, but lead can still be present in water at the tap.

Brown shares his own experience living with a lead service line, "I've lived my entire life in the city of Detroit and have a lead service line at my own home where there is a three-year-old grandson and an 89-year-old mother-in-law. I use the water at my house and have full confidence in the quality."

To learn more, watch this video about lead and Detroit water system at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=853vzrq4dBA

Editor's Note: Access to all the links in this article can be found on the EL CENTRAL website at www.elcentralmedia.com.

FOOD AND DRINK

Enchiladas Verdes con Pavo

(Green Chile Turkey Enchiladas)

A classic recipe using shredded pavo (turkey) in place of chicken, with a side of sliced buttery, melt-in-your-mouth avocados.

Gleaned from Muy Bueno https://muybuenoblog.com
by Yvette Marquez, photos by Jeanine Thur and Jenna Sparks

INGREDIENTS

- 12 Anaheim long green chile peppers
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 quart Suero de Sal, divided Whey or buttermilk can be used as a substitute.
- ½ cup canola oil, diced
- 1 white onion
- 12 to18 corn tortillas, preferably white corn
- 1 pound shredded turkey, or rotisserie chicken
- 1 ½ cups white shredded cheese, Monterrey Jack, Azadero or Muenster
- ¼ cup queso fresco, crumbled
- ½ cup crema Mexicana or sour cream, for sauce and topping
- salt to taste
- water, if needed
- 2 to 3 ripe avocados, pitted and sliced

INSTRUCTIONS

Roast Chile Peppers:

1. Preheat broiler. Select firm, meaty peppers without wrinkles for roasting.
2. Rinse thoroughly.
3. Place peppers evenly in a single layer on a foil-lined cookie sheet.
4. Place under broiler. Watch them closely as the skin will blister and turn black within minutes. Turn the peppers after 5 minutes to blister all sides evenly. When done, the pepper skins should be evenly blistered and mostly black.
5. Place roasted peppers in a plastic bag, cover with a kitchen towel and when cool, rub off the blackened skin, and discard the stem.

Sauce:

1. In a blender combine the peppers, flour, and half of the suero or buttermilk and blend until creamy.
2. Pour mixture into a medium skillet and set over medium-low heat to warm. Add additional suero or buttermilk and stir. Taste and season with salt, usually about 2 teaspoons. If the sauce is too spicy, add ¼ cup of crema Mexicana or sour cream and stir. If the sauce is too thick, add water until desired consistency is reached.

Stacked Style:

1. Fry tortillas in hot oil until softened.
2. Drain on paper towels.
3. Soften tortillas by soaking in sauce one at a time.
4. Place softened tortillas on individual serving plates. Layer with shredded turkey, onion, and cheese. Repeat process for a total of 3 to 4 tortillas for each serving.
5. Serve with slices of avocados.

Oven Style:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Fry tortillas in hot oil just until softened. Drain on paper towels.
3. Spread 1 cup of the sauce in an ungreased 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
4. Fill each tortilla with shredded turkey, onion, and cheese. Roll tortilla with filling, placing seam side down in the baking dish.
5. Pour 2 cups of the sauce over enchiladas. Sprinkle with more cheese and bake until warm, about 15 minutes. Serve with a dollop of crema Mexicana or sour cream and slices of avocados.

Creamy Zucchini, Corn, and Poblano Rajas

This traditional Mexican recipe is similar to calabacitas con elote (literally "zucchini with corn"), but with the addition of smoky roasted peppers and sweet caramelized onions bathed in a creamy and salty sauce. It takes only about 15 minutes of active time to get on the table.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 zucchini, ½-inch cubes
- 1 cup fresh or frozen corn
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ large white onion, sliced
- 2 garlic, minced
- 4 poblano chile peppers, roasted, seeded, and sliced into strips
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ cup queso fresco
- 1 cup crema Mexicana

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
2. Add zucchini and corn and cover and cook until zucchini is tender, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
3. In the same skillet, heat the butter over medium-low heat until melted and foamy. Add onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent and starting to gently brown around the edges, about 12 minutes.
4. Add the garlic and sauté for 1 more minute until fragrant.
5. Increase the heat to medium-high and add the poblano chile strips and the zucchini and corn mixture.
6. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, add the queso fresco and crema, and stir gently, and simmer for 5 to 6 minutes.

NOTES

- Choose your peppers. Mild poblanos are available year-round. For a spicier chile pepper, try Anaheim or Hatch. You can also swap in mild green bell peppers.
- Feel free to use frozen corn. There is no need to defrost the kernels before adding them.
- No crema Mexicana? Substitute sour cream, crème fraîche, or even whole milk plain yogurt in a pinch. No queso fresco? Feel free to swap in feta or Monterey Jack instead.
- While this dish uses summer veggies, you can easily make it year round! Poblanos and zucchini are pretty much always available at the grocery store.

Mashed Sweet Potatoes with Chipotle

Featuring a deliciously creamy texture and a savory-sweet, spicy, and smoky flavor profile, these make-ahead sweet potatoes are sure to be a hit. Perfect pairing for turkey, ham and more!

INGREDIENTS

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for the baking dish
- 4 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- ¼ cup fresh orange juice, plus zest of 1 orange
- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 chipotle chiles in adobo sauce, minced, plus 1 tablespoon adobo sauce
- 1/4 cup grated piloncillo or brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- pomegranate seeds, for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter an 8-inch square oven-to-table baking dish.
2. In a large saucepan or a stockpot over high heat, combine the sweet potatoes with water to cover and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and cook, uncovered, until tender, 10–15 minutes. Drain the potatoes into a colander and then return them to the pan.
3. Add the orange zest and juice, yogurt, 3 tablespoons of the butter, chipotle chiles and adobo sauce, piloncillo, vanilla, and salt to the potatoes. Using a potato masher, mash the potatoes, mixing them well with all the other ingredients, until smooth.
4. Spoon the potato mixture into the prepared baking dish, spreading it evenly. Cut the remaining 2 tablespoons butter into small bits and dot the top. Bake the potatoes until heated through and the top is slightly darker, about 20 minutes.
5. Remove from the oven, sprinkle with the pomegranate seeds, and serve hot.

NOTES

- The sweet potato mixture can be made up to 3 days in advance, spooned into the buttered baking dish, covered, and refrigerated. Bake directly from the refrigerator in a preheated 350°F oven until heated through, 30–35 minutes.
- These sweet potatoes will hold their own next to stuffing, cranberry sauce, salsa casera, and all the trimmings.

Desfile

Con't. de pg. 1

2024, cortesía de Priority Waste. Visite el sitio web de People Mover para conocer las paradas de las estaciones y las actualizaciones: thepeoplemover.com

El DDOT operará en un horario de domingo el Día de Acción de Gracias, para todas las rutas regulares con tarifa normal. Para obtener más información, llame a la Oficina de Atención al Cliente del DDOT al (313) 933-1300 o visite RideDetroitTransit.com.

Gran parte de la ruta del desfile de tres millas es gratuita y abierta al público, gracias a los patrocinadores del desfile. Las entradas para la tribuna ya están agotadas.

Si no puede asistir en persona, el desfile se transmitirá en vivo por WDIV, Local 4, y en www.clickondetroit.com. La cobertura radial comienza con "A Prelude to the Parade" presentado por Paul W. Smith en News/Talk 760 WJR a las 6:00 a. m. y se extiende hasta las 9:30 a. m. La transmisión en vivo del desfile comienza en 104.3 WOMC de 10:00 a. m. a 12:00 p. m. El desfile también se transmite en 185 estaciones de todo el país.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

Parade

Contined from p. 1

from 6:30 a.m. to Midnight and the fare is free throughout 2024, courtesy of Priority Waste. Visit the People Mover website for station stops and updates: thepeoplemover.com

DDOT will operate on a Sunday schedule on Thanksgiving Day for all regular routes at regular fares. For more information, please call DDOT's Customer Service Office at (313) 933-1300 or go to RideDetroitTransit.com.

Much of the three-mile Parade Route is free and open to the public, thanks to parade sponsors. Grandstand tickets are sold out.

If you can't attend in person, The Parade is broadcast live on WDIV, Local 4, streamed live on www.clickondetroit.com. Radio coverage begins with "A Prelude to the Parade" hosted by Paul W. Smith on News/Talk 760 WJR at 6:00 a.m. and runs until 9:30 a.m. The live play-by-play of The Parade begins on 104.3 WOMC from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Parade is also syndicated across 185 markets nation-wide.

MDOT, City of Detroit hosting community meeting Dec. 4 on US-12 (Michigan Avenue) project

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Detroit are hosting a community meeting on the planned improvements on US-12 (Michigan Avenue) in Detroit. The project involves rebuilding Michigan Avenue between I-96 and Campus Martius. Attendees will receive updates on the conceptual design MDOT is considering. The MDOT presentation begins promptly at 5:20 p.m., followed by a public comment session.

About this project

The Detroit Mobility and Innovation Corridor (DMIC) Project will involve rebuilding and repurposing a 2-mile stretch of US-12 (Michigan Avenue) in Corktown. Located between I-96 and M-1 (Woodward Avenue), the project is designed to make the Corktown neighborhood more accessible to accommodate more residential and commercial development. Adjacent to the historic Michigan Central Station, the project supports advanced mobility initiatives while building a shared-use corridor that will include nonmotorized facilities and other aspects of roadway design to maintain the corridor's unique and historical feel.

Public input:

Comments can be submitted via an online comment form, and in person at the public meeting. Provide your comments via email to MonsmaM@Michigan.gov or U.S. Mail by Jan. 10, 2025, to: Monica Monsma, MDOT Environmental Services Section. 425 West Ottawa St., P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909.

Diles que lo Viste en
EL CENTRAL

Tell them you saw it in
EL CENTRAL

Michigan Department of Transportation and City of Detroit
US-12 (Michigan Avenue)
Improvement Project
I-96 to Campus Martius Park
Public Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 | 5 - 7 p.m.
Gaelic League Detroit | 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48216
Meeting Information:
• Public meeting includes a formal presentation, question-and-answer session and project information stations.
• Stop in any time; staff will be available to answer questions.
• Formal presentation at 5:20 p.m.
• Parking at the adjacent lot.
What is the Michigan Avenue project?
• Road reconstruction
• Streetscape
• Transit/bike lane enhancements
• Pedestrian infrastructure improvements
• Innovation
Project Website:
MDOT
Michigan Department of Transportation

Detroit Launches $500,000 Fund to Invest in Legacy Small Businesses

Detroit officials launched a new program last week to invest in small businesses that have shaped the city's culture for 30 years or longer. The Detroit Legacy Business Project (DBLP), announced by City Council President Mary Sheffield, representatives of Mayor Mike Duggan's Office, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and city supporters, aims to sustain long-standing small businesses across the city.

The program will provide financial and technical assistance to qualifying businesses, with grants ranging from $15,000 to $50,000. A total of 16 grants will be awarded: two businesses from each of Detroit's seven council districts will receive $15,000 grants, plus two citywide grants of $50,000 each.

"The Detroit Legacy Business Project is not just about preserving businesses – it's about preserving the stories, communities, and legacy that make our beloved City unique. By investing in these long-standing businesses, we are ensuring that Detroit's rich history remains an integral part of our culture and empowering future generations of entrepreneurs to build upon that foundation," Sheffield said.

Awards will allow businesses to grow and thrive through meaningful investments in product inventory, equipment, building beautification, business consulting and other allowable uses.

To qualify for grant funding, businesses must have operated continuously in Detroit for 30+ years and demonstrate their impact on the city's cultural identity through their products, services and community engagement. The program specifically targets independently owned and operated businesses that maintain physical locations accessible to the public.

"As the City of Detroit works to create the jobs of the future, we are excited to invest in the entrepreneurs and legacy businesses that have served as foundations in our communities," said Justin Onwenu, Director of Entrepreneurship and Economic Opportunity for the City of Detroit. "Small businesses are drivers in economic growth, and we are excited to make needed investments to ensure that they continue to thrive in the City of Detroit."

The City worked closely with Lauren Stovall to launch the initiative. Stovall, daughter of Tony Stovall, who founded Hot Sam's, one of Detroit's oldest legacy businesses, grew up in the family's menswear store. Drawing on her years consulting legacy businesses, she recognized an opportunity to create a program supporting Detroit's historic small businesses.

"I have had a unique burden for legacy businesses for the past few years. I came to recognize them as a unique and set apart sector within the general small business sector and I believed there was more that we as a community and city could do to honor and serve them," said Stovall, who's also the founder of the Institute Legacy Preservation, Inc. "It's important that we see them right; as pillars and anchors that serve as cultural assets of the city and within the community."

The initiative includes Detroit's first Legacy Business Registry, which will recognize and track qualifying businesses that have operated in the city for 30 years or more. Businesses listed in the registry will become eligible for technical and financial support through the program while gaining special designation as Detroit Legacy Businesses.

"Legacy businesses are more than just storefronts – they're job creators and second-chance employers who've supported Detroit families for generations," said Sean Gray, vice president of Small Business Services at the DEGC. "These businesses have shown incredible resilience through Detroit's ups and downs, often being the first to give opportunities to returning citizens and local residents. This initiative helps ensure they can continue serving as economic anchors in our neighborhoods for decades to come."

The application period is now open and will close on December 23, 2024, at 8 a.m. Grant recipients will be announced on February 21, 2025.

Business owners can learn more about eligibility requirements and apply at detroitmi.gov/opportunities/detroit-legacy-business-project.

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HISPANIC NEWS

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El Central informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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¿No puede pagar sus facturas de agua o electricidad en Detroit? Estos programas pueden ayudarle

Por Isabelle Tavares para Planet Detroit

La financiación de los programas federales de ayuda a los servicios públicos empezó a estar disponible el 1 de octubre. Según Liz Jacob, abogada especializada en justicia energetica del Sugar Law Center, los habitantes de Detroit que recurren a la ayuda para servicios públicos deben actuar pronto para recibir las prestaciones mientras se renueven los fondos y, en algunos casos, evitar perderlas.

Muchos habitantes de Detroit se enfrentan a costes inasequibles de los servicios públicos, dijo Jacob, señalando que los residentes de la ciudad se enfrentan a una alta carga energetica que significa que un hogar gasta más del 6% de sus ingresos mensuales en servicios de electricidad y gas.

Mucha gente está luchando por cubrir sus necesidades básicas, los servicios públicos, la comida, mientras la inflación aumenta y mucha gente se queda en trabajos muy estancados, dijo Jacob.

En teoría, los programas están financiados hasta septiembre del año que viene, aunque este año la financiación se agotó en junio, dijo Jacob. Esto es lo que debe saber ahora para garantizar su bienestar.

Cómo obtener ayuda de emergencia para el suministro de energía

La financiación para el Fondo Estatal de Emergencia y el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan disponible para el año del programa 2024-2025 se abrió el 1 de octubre. La financiación de la asistencia de servicios públicos de Wayne Metro proviene del Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan (www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance).

Su financiación se asigna a agencias de acción comunitaria, como Wayne Metro, el Ejército de Salvación, United Way of Southeastern Michigan y The Heat and Warmth Fund. Esas agencias proporcionan financiación directamente a los miembros de la comunidad - los miembros de la comunidad sólo pueden solicitar financiación estatal de una agencia de acción comunitaria por año de financiación.

Ayuda de emergencia estatal (State Emergency Relief)

El Programa de Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado de Michigan (www.michigan.gov/mdhhs) ayuda a cubrir el coste de las emergencias -incluidos los cortes de suministro relacionados con la energía- desde el 1 de octubre hasta que se agotan los fondos. Jacob dijo que el año pasado, los fondos de Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado se agotaron tres meses antes, en junio de 2024.

Los fondos también se han reducido desde el año pasado. Ahora, los habitantes de Detroit reciben $ 500 para los costos relacionados con el calor y $ 500 para los costos relacionados con la electricidad, que los residentes sólo pueden aplicar una vez para cada utilidad.

¿Cómo se solicita? Presente su solicitud en línea en MI Bridges (https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/) creando una cuenta o iniciando sesión en ella. Después de enviar su solicitud, prevea una espera de 10 días para una decisión.

Para obtener ayuda inmediata, visite su oficina local del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Michigan y solicite en persona. Su oficina local le dará el formulario de solicitud MDHHS 1171.

Puede ser más fácil imprimir y rellenar el formulario de solicitud antes de ir al MDHHS. Ayuda Legal de Michigan (www.michiganlegalhelp.org) recomienda explicar su emergencia al especialista del departamento de salud, que es la única persona que puede determinar la elegibilidad.

¿Qué documentos necesito? En la solicitud se le pedirán datos personales, como el número de la Seguridad Social. Es posible que tenga que presentar documentos como certificados de nacimiento, carnés de identidad estatales, carnés de conducir o pasaportes. También es posible que tenga que aportar documentos que demuestren sus ingresos y gastos, como extractos bancarios y justificantes de alquiler, como un contrato de arrendamiento. Estos documentos de gastos deben tener menos de 30 días de antigüedad.

Los residentes de Detroit pueden utilizar el nuevo Detroit ID (www.detroitmi.gov/detroit-id) para abrir cuentas de servicios públicos con DTE Energy y el Departamento de Agua y Alcantarillado de Detroit. Sin embargo, los programas de asistencia de servicios públicos mencionados no aceptan el Detroit ID como sustituto de la identificación personal.

Denise Fair Razo, jefa de salud pública de Detroit, dijo que el Detroit ID no sustituye a ninguna forma de identificación que indique o infiera la ciudadanía estadounidense, como el pasaporte estadounidense, el certificado de nacimiento o la tarjeta de la seguridad social federal.

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Muchos programas de ayuda se renuevan el 1 de octubre, y los beneficiarios deben actuar con rapidez para evitar perder las prestaciones.

Many assistance programs renewed Oct. 1, and recipients should act fast to avoid losing benefits.

Can't pay your utility or water bills in Detroit? These programs can help

By Isabelle Tavares for Planet Detroit

Funding for federal utility assistance programs became available on October 1. According to Liz Jacob, an energy justice lawyer at the Sugar Law Center, Detroiters who use utility assistance should act early to receive benefits while funding is fresh, and in some cases, avoid losing benefits.

Many Detroiters face unaffordable costs for utilities, Jacob said, noting that city residents face a high energy burden which means a household spends more than 6% on its monthly income on electricity and gas services.

"So many folks are struggling to afford basic necessities, utilities, food right now, as inflation rises and so many folks are staying in very stagnant jobs," Jacob said.

In theory, the programs are funded until September of next year, though this year, funding ran out in June, Jacob said. Here is what you need to know now to ensure your well-being.

How to get emergency energy utility assistance

Funding for the State Emergency Fund and the Michigan Energy Assistance Program available for the 2024-2025 program year opened on October 1st. Wayne Metro's utility assistance funding comes from the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance). Their funding is allocated to Community Action Agencies, like Wayne Metro, the Salvation Army, United Way of Southeastern Michigan, and The Heat and Warmth Fund. Those agencies provide funding directly to community members – community members can only apply for state funding from one community action agency per funding year.

State Emergency Relief

Michigan's State Emergency Relief Program (www.michigan.gov/mdhhs) helps cover the cost of emergencies – energy-related utility shut-offs included – from Oct. 1 until funds are exhausted. Jacob said last year, State Emergency Relief funds were exhausted three months early in June 2024. Funds have also been reduced since last year. Now, Detroiters receive $500 for heat-related costs and $500 for electric-related costs, which residents can only apply once for each utility.

How do I apply? Apply online at MI Bridges (https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/) by creating or logging into an account. After submitting your application, plan for a 10-day wait for a decision.

For immediate help, visit your local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services office and apply in person. Your local office will give you an application form MDHHS 1171.

It may be easier to print and fill out the application form before going to MDHHS. Michigan Legal Help (www.michiganlegalhelp.org) recommends explaining your emergency to your health department specialist, who is the only person who can determine eligibility.

What documents do I need? You will be asked to provide personal information in the application, such as a social security number. You may have to show documents like birth certificates, state ID cards, driver's licenses, or passports. You may also need to bring documents that show your income and expenses, like bank statements and proof of rent, such as a lease. These expense documents must be less than 30 days old.

Detroit residents can use the newly introduced Detroit ID (www.detroitmi.gov/detroit-id) to set up utility accounts with DTE Energy and the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd). However, the above utility assistance programs do not accept the Detroit ID as a replacement for personal identification.

Denise Fair Razo, Detroit's chief public health officer, said the Detroit ID does not substitute any form of identification indicating or inferring U.S. citizenship, such as a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or federal social security card.

What happens: In Detroit, a specialist from the Detroit Health Department may set up a conference to review your application. Before you meet, gather your essential documents and read up on your rights in this Michigan Environmental Justice

Contined on p. 7

Estos programas pueden ayudarle

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Qué ocurre: En Detroit, un especialista del Departamento de Salud de Detroit puede concertar una reunión para revisar su solicitud. Antes de la reunión, reúna sus documentos esenciales y lea sobre sus derechos en este kit de herramientas de la Coalición de Justicia Ambiental de Michigan (www.michiganej.org/know-your-rights).

Puede obtener más información sobre sus derechos del especialista del departamento de salud y hacerle cualquier otra pregunta que tenga sobre el proceso de solicitud o sus prestaciones públicas.

Si le aprueban una ayuda para servicios públicos del programa de Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado, es posible que primero tenga que hacer un pago inicial, también llamado copago, para recibir su ayuda, dijo Jacob. El pago inicial requiere que usted pague una cantidad determinada por el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Michigan directamente a DTE para pagar una parte de su factura.

A continuación, debe cargar la prueba de su pago a su cuenta MiBridges. Sólo entonces el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Michigan enviará su premio de Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado directamente a DTE para pagar su factura de servicios públicos pendientes. DTE puede tardar varios días hábiles en enviar y recibir la ayuda, dijo Jacob.

Si necesita ayuda financiera adicional para pagar su cuota inicial, puede solicitar ayuda adicional a través del Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan.

Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan

Una vez aprobada su solicitud de Ayuda de Emergencia Estatal, los residentes en Michigan pueden optar a una ayuda complementaria del Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan (www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance). Su copago de Ayuda de Emergencia Estatal, o la cantidad con la que contribuyen al coste de la ayuda de emergencia recibida en virtud del programa, debe ser igual o inferior a 3,000 $ al ano.

El Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan ayuda a los hogares con bajos ingresos que reúnan los requisitos, que se encuentren al 150% o por debajo del nivel federal de pobreza, a alcanzar la autosuficiencia energética y evitar la inseguridad energética. Los beneficios incluyen ayuda para pagar las facturas de energía a tiempo, la presupuestación de los gastos de energía, que podría incluir la inscripción en un plan de pago asequible, y el aprendizaje de la eficiencia energética.

Hay dos opciones para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Michigan. Un cliente de bajos ingresos que cumpla los requisitos puede recibir un pago único para sus atrasos, o puede optar por inscribirse en el Plan de Autosuficiencia para Personas de Bajos Ingresos, también llamado Plan de Pagos Asequibles de DTE.

El Plan de Autosuficiencia para Personas con Bajos Ingresos es un programa de pago de 24 meses que congela el saldo vencido de un cliente, elimina futuros cargos por demora siempre que realice los pagos a tiempo a lo largo del programa, y proporciona a los clientes un crédito mensual por demora, dijo Jacob.

Para muchos hogares, Jacob dijo que la participación en el Plan de Autosuficiencia de Bajos Ingresos puede asegurar que tengan una factura mensual más asequible, proporcionándoles la oportunidad de recibir apoyo financiero para pagar tanto su factura mensual y pagar cualquier saldo pendiente atrasado que tienen con DTE.

Wayne Metro es una de las agencias que recibe fondos del programa de Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado. Se puede contactar con el centro en el 313-388-9799 o en su pagina web (www.waynemetro.org/MEAP), y está situado en 7310 Woodward Ave. Otras agencias en Michigan incluyen:

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Archdiocese of Detroit (313-393-2930)
- TrueNorth Community Services (231-924-0641)
- United Way for Southeastern Michigan (313-226-9200)
- The Heat and Warmth Fund (313-226-9465)
- Barry County United Way (269-945-4010)
- Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (517-784-4800)
- Superior Watershed Partnership (906-228-6095)
- The Salvation Army (313-436-1256)

Si un residente está en necesidad inmediata y tiene un aviso de corte activo, llamando al 2-1-1 (www.mi211.org) se conectará con los recursos actualizados sobre la financiación disponible para los programas estatales y federales. Si un residente es elegible, la siguiente mejor opción es inscribirse en el Programa de Proteccion de Cierre de DTE o negociar un acuerdo de pago con DTE llamando al 800-477-4747 o www.dteenergy.com.

El Programa de Protección de Corte de DTE ofrece a los residentes 12 meses para pagar su saldo vencido con protección de corte, siempre y cuando usted haga los pagos. Este programa es más útil para las familias entre 150-200% del nivel federal de pobreza o residentes que no son elegibles para la Ayuda de Emergencia del Estado o el Programa de Asistencia de Energía de Michigan.

¿Tengo derecho a una ayuda para el suministro de agua?

Los habitantes de Detroit tienen acceso a dos programas distintos de ayuda con el agua. El Plan Lifeline del Departamento de Agua y Alcantarillado de Detroit (www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd) es un programa de asequibilidad del agua basado en los ingresos que reduce las facturas de agua a tan solo 18 $ al mes y elimina la deuda de agua. Los habitantes de Detroit que no puedan acogerse al Plan Lifeline pueden optar al Plan EasyPay del Departamento de Aguas.

Los clientes de la Autoridad del Agua de los Grandes Lagos que no residen en Detroit pueden acogerse a Programa de Asistencia Residencial par el Agua (WRAP), que ofrece ayuda para pagar los saldos vencidos y las facturas durante un máximo de dos años. Para poder acogerse al WRAP, debe ser cliente residencial de una empresa de suministro de agua participante, tener unos ingresos iguales o inferiores al 200% del nivel federal de pobreza, tener la factura del agua a su nombre y poder demostrar que es responsable de ella. Las personas mayores y los discapacitados permanentes que reúnan los requisitos pueden obtener el crédito de la factura indefinidamente. Visite www.glwater.org/assistance para mas informacion.

Las cifras de este mes indican que 76.000 habitantes de Detroit se benefician del Plan Lifeline, y 9.000 hogares de Detroit se han inscrito en el Plan EasyPay desde su puesta en marcha el 30 de julio, según Bryan Peckinpaugh, Director de Asuntos Públicos de Detroit.

¿Cómo puedo solicitar Lifeline? La factura del agua debe estar a su nombre. El miembro del hogar que es responsable de la cuenta de agua necesita una identificación con foto, número de seguro social y prueba de ingresos del hogar durante los últimos 30 días para determinar el nivel de pago. Solicitar a través de Wayne Metro en waynemetro.org/DWSDlifeline o llame al 313-386-9727.

El programa funciona en tres niveles basados en los ingresos y el uso del agua. El nivel de 18 $ al mes es el más

común, para familias que se sitúan en el 135% del nivel federal de pobreza, o para una familia de cuatro miembros que gane hasta 42.120 $ al año. El nivel de 43 dólares al mes es para familias de cuatro miembros que ganen 46.800 dólares al año. El nivel de 56 dólares al mes requiere unos ingresos anuales de 62.400 dólares para cuatro personas en un hogar.

Wayne Metro dispone de un centro de atención telefónica para consultas relacionadas con el agua en el que trabajan unos 40 empleados, con un tiempo medio de espera de unos tres minutos.

Shama Mounzer, directora de programas de Wayne Metro, dijo que el plan incluye añadir a los clientes que soliciten la recertificación a una lista compartida entre Wayne Metro y el departamento de agua. Una vez en esta lista, los clientes están protegidos contra el corte del servicio hasta que vuelvan a inscribirse en el programa Lifeline.

Hay asistencia disponible en cualquiera de las oficinas de Wayne Metro para quienes tengan dificultades con el proceso de solicitud. Si la visita en persona no es posible, un representante de Wayne Metro puede proporcionar apoyo por teléfono (llame al 313-388-9799) y aplicar en nombre de la persona que llama.

Mounzer dijo que los clientes que pierden la fecha límite del 1 de octubre todavía tienen la opción de presentar su solicitud de recertificación y serán reinscritos en el Programa Lifeline.

Para iniciar el proceso de recertificación en el Plan Lifeline, llame a la agencia al 313-388-9799 o rellene el formulario visitando www.waynemetro.org/dwsdlifeline.

¿Cómo puedo solicitar el Plan Easy Pay? Los habitantes de Detroit que no reúnan los requisitos para acogerse al Plan Lifeline pueden optar al Plan EasyPay del departamento de aguas (www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd), un programa que detiene los cortes de agua si se realizan pagos regulares.

El Plan EasyPay no tiene restricciones de ingresos, y un depósito de 10 dólares le inscribe en el programa. Los clientes tienen 36 meses para pagar el saldo vencido, así como su factura regular.

¿Cómo puedo solicitar el WRAP? El WRAP proporciona asistencia financiera a los residentes elegibles del sureste de Michigan, no de la ciudad de Detroit, para ayudarles a gestionar las facturas del agua. Los habitantes de Detroit que reúnan los requisitos pueden solicitar el plan Lifeline. El programa ofrece asistencia en el pago, medidas de conservación del agua y condonación de atrasos a quienes reúnan los requisitos.

Una vez inscrito, el programa ofrece hasta 115 $ al mes en concepto de ayuda para el pago de facturas durante 12 meses, con posibilidad de renovación si sigue cumpliendo los requisitos. El WRAP también ofrece hasta 1.500 $ en concepto de condonación de atrasos en el pago de facturas de agua vencidas. Además de la ayuda financiera, el programa incluye medidas de conservación del agua, como auditorías del agua en el hogar y pequeñas reparaciones de fontanería, para reducir el consumo de agua y disminuir las facturas futuras.

Para solicitar el WRAP, reúna la documentación necesaria, incluido un documento de identidad válido con fotografía, la factura del agua, un justificante de ingresos de los últimos 30 días y su número de la seguridad social. Puede presentar su solicitud en línea visitando www.waynemetro.org/WRAP o llamando a Wayne Metro al 313-386-9727 para obtener ayuda con el proceso de solicitud. Si lo prefiere, también puede visitar cualquier oficina de Wayne Metro para recibir ayuda en persona.

Una vez aprobada su solicitud, recibirá asistencia, que puede incluir créditos de pago inmediatos y ayuda para conservar el agua. Wayne Metro trabajará con usted para desarrollar un plan de pago manejable, y cualquier cantidad vencida se abordará a través de la opción de condonación de atrasos del programa.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita ayuda para solicitarlo, Wayne Metro ofrece asistencia telefónica en el 313-386-9727. También puede visitar sus oficinas para recibir asistencia en persona.

El acceso a todos los enlaces de este artículo se puede encontrar en el sitio web de EL CENTRAL: www.elcentralmedia.com

Programs can help pay utility or water bills in Detroit

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Coalition toolkit (www.michiganej.org/know-your-rights).

You may learn more about your rights from the health department specialist and ask them any other questions you have about the application process or your public benefits.

If you are approved for a utility assistance award from the State Emergency Relief program, you may be required to first make a down-payment, also called a copay, in order to receive your award, Jacob said. The down-payment requires you to pay an amount determined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services directly to DTE to pay a portion of your bill.

Then, you must upload proof of your payment to your MiBridges account. Only then will the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services send your State Emergency Relief award directly to DTE to pay towards your outstanding utility bill. It may take several business days for the award to be sent and received by DTE, Jacob said.

If you need additional financial assistance to pay your down-payment, you can apply for additional assistance through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program.

Michigan Energy Assistance Program

After their State Emergency Relief application is approved, Michigan residents are eligible for supplemental assistance from the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/energy-assistance). Their State Emergency Relief copay, or the amount they contribute toward the cost of the emergency assistance received under the program, must be equal to or less than $3,000 per year.

The Michigan Energy Assistance Program helps eligible low-income households, who are at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, reach energy self-sufficiency and prevent energy insecurity. Benefits include help with paying energy bills on time, budgeting for energy expenses, which could include enrollment into an affordable payment plan, and learning about energy efficiency.

There are two options for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program. An eligible low-income customer can receive a one-time payment towards their arrears, or they can choose to enroll in the Low-Income Self-Sufficiency Plan, also called DTE's Affordable Payment Plan.

The Low-Income Self-Sufficiency Plan is a 24-month payment program that freezes a customer's past due balance, eliminates future late charges as long as they make timely payments over the program, and provides customers with a monthly arrears credit, Jacob said.

For many households, Jacob said participating in the Low-Income Self-Sufficiency Plan can ensure that they have a more affordable monthly bill by providing them with the opportunity to receive financial support to pay off both their monthly bill and pay down any outstanding past due balance they have with DTE.

Wayne Metro is one of the agencies that receives funding from the State Emergency Relief program. The center can be reached at 313-388-9799 or their website at www.waynemetro.org/MEAP and is located at 7310 Woodward Ave. Other agencies across Michigan include:

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Archdiocese of Detroit (313-393-2930)
- TrueNorth Community Services (231-924-0641)
- United Way for Southeastern Michigan (313-226-9200)
- The Heat and Warmth Fund (313-226-9465)
- Barry County United Way (269-945-4010)
- Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (517-784-4800)
- Superior Watershed Partnership (906-228-6095)
- The Salvation Army (313-436-1256)

If a resident is in immediate need and has an active shut-off notice, calling 2-1-1 (www.mi211.org) will connect them to updated resources on available funding for state and federal programs. If a resident is eligible, the next best option is to enroll in DTE's Shut-Off Protection Program or negotiate a payment agreement with DTE by calling 800-477-4747 or visiting www.dteenergy.com.

The DTE Shut-Off Protection Program gives residents 12 months to pay off their past due balance with shutoff protection, as long as you make payments. This program is most useful for families between 150-200% of the federal poverty level or residents who are not eligible for State Emergency Relief or the Michigan Energy Assistance Program.

Do I qualify for water utility assistance?

Detroiters have access to two separate water assistance programs. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's

Lifeline Plan is an income-based water affordability program that reduces water bills to as low as $18 per month and erases water debt. Detroiters who are not eligible for the Lifeline Plan can qualify for the water department's EasyPay Plan.

Non-Detroit resident customers of the Great Lakes Water Authority are eligible for the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) which offers help paying down past-due balances and paying bills for up to two years. To be eligible for WRAP, you must be a residential customer of a participating water utility, have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, have the water bill in your name, and be able to verify responsibility for it. Eligible seniors and permanently disabled persons can obtain bill credit indefinitely. Visit www.glwater.org/assistance for more information.

Numbers from this month report that 76,000 Detroiters benefit from the Lifeline Plan, and 9,000 Detroit households have signed up for the EasyPay Plan since it's rollout on July 30, Bryan Peckinpaugh Director of Public Affairs confirmed.

How do I apply for Lifeline? Your residential water bill must be in your name. The household member who is responsible for the water account needs a photo ID, social security number and proof of household income for the last 30 days to determine payment tier. Apply through Wayne Metro at waynemetro.org/DWSDlifeline or call 313-386-9727.

The program operates on three tiers based on income and water use. The $18-a-month tier is the most common – for families at 135% of the federal poverty level, or a family of four making up to $42,120 a year. The $43-a-month tier is for families of four making up to $46,800 a year. The $56-a month-tier requires a yearly income of no more than $62,400 for four people in a household.

Wayne Metro operates a dedicated call center for water-related inquiries, staffed by approximately 40 team members, with an average wait time of about three minutes.

Shama Mounzer, chief programs officer for Wayne Metro said the plan includes adding clients who apply for recertification to a shared list between Wayne Metro and the water department. Once on this list, clients are protected from service shut-offs until they are re-enrolled in the Lifeline Program.

Assistance is available at any Wayne Metro location for those who encounter challenges with the application process. If visiting in person is not possible, a Wayne Metro representative can provide support over the phone (call 313-388-9799) and apply on the caller's behalf.

Mounzer said clients who miss the Oct. 1, 2024, deadline still have the option to submit their recertification application and can be re-enrolled in the Lifeline Program.

To begin the recertification process in the Lifeline Plan, call the agency at 313-388-9799 or fill out the recertification form at www.waynemetro.org/dwsdlifeline.

How do I apply for the Easy Pay Plan? Detroiters who are not eligible for the Lifeline Plan can qualify for the water department's EasyPay Plan (www.detroitmi.gov/dwsd), a program that stops water shut-offs if regular payments are made.

The EasyPay Plan has no income restrictions, and a $10 deposit enrolls you in the program. Customers have 36 months to pay off the overdue balance, as well as their regular bill.

How do I apply for WRAP? WRAP provides financial assistance to eligible residents in Southeast Michigan, not the city of Detroit, to help manage water bills. Eligible Detroiters can apply to the Lifeline Plan. The program offers payment assistance, water conservation measures, and arrears forgiveness for those who qualify.

Once enrolled, the program provides up to $115 per month in bill payment assistance for 12 months, with the possibility of renewal if you remain eligible. WRAP also offers up to $1,500 in arrearage forgiveness for past-due water bills. In addition to financial support, the program includes water conservation measures, such as home water audits and minor plumbing repairs, to reduce water usage and lower future bills.

To apply for WRAP, gather necessary documentation, including a valid photo ID, your water bill, proof of income for the past 30 days, and your social security number. You can submit your application online by visiting www.waynemetro.org/WRAP

or calling Wayne Metro at 313-386-9727 for assistance with the application process. If you prefer, you can also visit any Wayne Metro location for in-person support.

Once your application is approved, you will receive assistance, which may include immediate payment credits and help conserving water. Wayne Metro will work with you to develop a manageable payment plan, and any past-due amounts will be addressed through the program's arrearage forgiveness option.

If you have questions or need help applying, Wayne Metro offers phone support at 313-386-9727. You can also visit their offices to receive in-person assistance.

Access to all the links in this article may be found on the EL CENTRAL website: www.elcentralmedia.com

Lions beat the Colts 24-6 to go to 10-1 on the season.

Thanksgiving Day game: Lions Host the Bears!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

The Detroit Lions host the Chicago Bears, on Thanksgiving Thursday, at 12:30 pm (CBS), at Ford Field.

The Detroit Lions host the Green Bay Packers on Thursday, December 5th at 8:15 pm (Prime Video), then the Buffalo Bills, on Sunday December 15th, 4:25 pm (CBS).

The Detroit Lions then go on the road, to take on the Chicago Bears, on Sunday, December 22nd at 1:00 pm (FOX), then take on the San Francisco 49ers, for a NFC Championship game rematch, on Monday, December 30th, at 8:15 pm (ABC/ESPN), before hosting the Minnesota Vikings at Ford Field (date and time are TBD) for the final game of the season.

Photos below are highlights from the Detroit Lions from previous home games.

Photos by Adam J. Dewey.

The newly acquired edge rusher Za'Darius Smith (#99) will play his first Thanksgiving Day with the Detroit Lions, when the Detroit Lions host the Chicago Bears, on Thanksgiving Thursday

Lions fans are ready for the Thanksgiving Day game against the Chicago Bears

Lions head coach Dan Campbell, will push his team to continue winning streak and defeating the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving Thursday

Amon-Ra St. Brown (#14) will look to continue being a touchdown machine for the Detroit Lions, as they host the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving Thursday

Tigers' Ace Tarik Skubal Wins AL Cy Young Award

Skubal won the American League Triple Crown by leading the league with an ERA of 2.39, 228 strikeouts and wins with an 18-4 record

Detroit Tigers second baseman Colt Keith (#33) was named the Detroit Sports Media Association's Rookie of the Year. Photo by Adam J. Dewey

Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Tarik Skubal (#29) won the Dy Young Award for best pitcher in the American League. Photo by Adam J. Dewey

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

Detroit City Makes End-of-the Year Roster Moves

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Following their unfortunate elimination from the USL Championship playoffs, Detroit City FC made a number of roster announcements. What the club didn't announce officially is at least equally significant. The club divided the players into groups according to their contract status.

To begin, all three players who came to the club on loan have returned to their parent clubs. DCFC had picked up forward Victor Bezerra from the Chicago Fire and defender Abdi Salim from Orlando City, both from MLS. Neither player made a significant contribution. Salim had injury issues. Bezerra didn't show that he was an improvement over the players that were already here. Midfielder Laurent Kissiedou returns to Pardubice of the Czech first division after becoming an important contributor. He scored a couple of key goals and impressed the home crowd with some slick dribbling during his short stay. If the club could acquire him permanently, he would be a good option on the left side of midfield.

The club cleared more roster space by declining the options for striker Elvis Amoh, midfielder Daniel Espeleta, and midfielder James Murphy. The hard-nosed Murphy held down a starting job for long stretches of the season, but he had a penchant for picking up yellow cards that rankled some. Most were simply for arguing with the referee. Amoh competed with Ben Morris for the center forward spot, but struggled to score goals, finishing with just three and missing a number of golden opportunities. Morris had ten goals and finished the last two months as the unquestioned starter. Espeleta appeared infrequently and made no impact.

The player who benefits most from Murphy's departure looks like Ryan Williams. He came into midfield as a cooler head, but with equal tenacity and some ability to deliver from set pieces. The Englishman had his option declined, but the club is still in discussions to re-sign him. Williams' calm presence boosted the team as it moved up the table during the second half of the season.

The club has exercised the options on Commerce Township's Connor Rutz and midfielder Jeciel Cedeno. Rutz had a long stretch of the year, a carry over from last year, without making much of an offensive contribution. However, during the last two months, he often joined Morris up front and became a greater threat. Extra work with assistant coach Nick Dasovic paid off in the end. Cedeno is an unusual case. He didn't really impress, but finished with three goals in thirty-two appearances. The staff must have a plan to expand his role next season.

A good portion of the team's core has been signed through next year and even into 2026 or 2027. Rhys Williams, Alex Villanueva, Stephen Carroll, Devon Amoo-Mensah, Ben Morris, and Carlos Saldana will be locked in for 2025 at least. Academy product Dominic Gasso from Grand Blanc returns from his loan to Huntsville of MLS Next Pro. That ensures that three-quarters of the back line and the leading goal-scorer will be back. Saldana will be one goalkeeper on the roster. That list leaves some major questions.

The club made no mention of several of the top players. Those absent from the list include Maxi Rodriguez, who was named to the USL Championship first team of the season. He joined Morris on ten goals and added five assists. Midfield dynamo Abdoulaye Diop, defender Michael Bryant, reserve defenders Matt Sheldon and Brett Levis, and most significantly goalkeeper Nate Steinwascher don't appear on the club's official release. That's a lot of question marks.

The off-season has now begun in earnest. Director of Football Trevor James and head coach Danny Dichio have to begin the recruitment process and preparations for 2025 immediately. That means filling the empty roster spots and maybe digging into the academy to see if there are any prospects in the pipeline. The ownership declared earlier this year that they are hoping to break ground on the new stadium soon. That will have to involve demolition work on the site, too. They still want to open the new stadium in Spring 2027. There is a lot of work to do.

Nation's Top Recruit Turns Maize and Blue

Photos by Adam J. Dewey.

Michigan has flipped Belleville, MI quarterback Bryce Underwood, the top rated high school player in the nation (ESPN, 247Sports, ON3) in the 2025 class away from LSU.

Five-star quarterback recruit Bryce Underwood is considered to be a dual threat to defenses with his running and passing abilities.

Bryce Underwood receives a MVP award, August, 2024 in a battle between Belleville and Clarkston.

Michigan also flipped Belleville, MI safety Elijah Dotson, a four-star rated player (247Sports) in the 2025 class away from Pittsburgh.

Special World's Cultures Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving and Fall-Winter Festivals

Thanksgiving Day is an American celebration full of light and dark and contrasts. The story begins when in 1621 the Wampanoag nation of Plymouth, Massachusetts invited European settlers to share the feast of gratitude for the autumn harvests. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday. However, it was not until 1941 with the government of Franklin D. Roosevelt that it was officially established through Congress as the last Thursday of November of each year.

And it is during this November season that families and friends gather to have dinner and give thanks for everything they have had in the year. It may seem irrelevant, but, unlike Christmas and the New Year's party, on this day we give thanks for the love, freedom and prosperity we had. We take advantage of it to give to others not in the form of gifts, but in gratitude, to share what we have. Although Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Latin American countries, in the homes of those who have already settled in the United States, the date is used to socialize and share traditional foods from their countries. They undoubtedly accompany or replace turkey with tamales, pozole, pupusas, rice with beans, roast pork or loin, tostones, mondongo, among other delicacies.

It is important to take into account that for the cultures of different countries of Latinamerica, the celebrations that unite the seasons of autumn and winter abound, some are associated with the harvest, the migration of birds, butterflies, or, as a prelude to Christmas, a cultural encounter.

A visit to the state of Michoacán during the month of November is a destination not to be missed, between the Day of the Dead festivities at the beginning of November, along with the spectacular landscapes of Lake Camécuaro, followed by a visit to the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary during its migration and closing with a visit to the spectacular Glass Ball Fair in the Magical Town of Tlapujahua, with Christmas balls that go beyond traditional designs by exploring designs with monarch butterflies and floral motifs from the region.

Then, to close the month, there is the city of Guadalajara, where the International Book Fair begins on the last weekend of November, the most important in Latin America and which is surrounded by a series of cultural activities that complement the book presentations by great writers, editors and scientists at the International Book Fair, as well as visual arts exhibitions, plays, cinema, concerts and, of course, a gastronomic tour that should not be missed.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Día de Acción de Gracias

Día de Acción de Gracias y Festivales de Otoño-Invierno

El Día de Acción de Gracias o Thanksgiving es un día de celebración estadounidense lleno de claroscuros y contrastes.

La historia que da inicio fue cuando en 1621 la nación Wampanoag, "Pueblo de la primera Luz", ubicada en Plymouth, Massachussetts, quienes compartieron con los colonizadores europeos a sus conocimientos sobre la agricultura, razón que los llevó a ser parte del festín de gratitud por las cosechas de otoño. A pesar de que aquella primera celebración se dio en el siglo XVII, fue en 1863 cuando Abraham Lincoln proclamó al Día de Acción de Gracias como un día festivo a nivel nacional. Sin embargo, fue hasta 1941 con el gobierno de Franklin D. Roosvelt que se estableció oficial a través del congreso como el último jueves de noviembre de cada año.

En esta temporada de noviembre que las familias y amistades se reúnen para cenar y dar gracias por todo aquello que se ha tenido en el año. Puede parece irrelevante, pero, a diferencia de Navidad y de la fiesta de Año Nuevo, en este día se agradece por el amor, la libertad y la prosperidad que se tuvo. Se aprovecha para dar a los demás no en forma de regalos, sino de gratitud, compartir lo que se tiene.

Aunque en los países iberoamericanos no se celebra el Thanksgiving, en las casas de quienes ya se han establecido en los Estados Unidos se aprovecha la fecha para convivir y compartir con comidas tradicionales de sus países, sin duda acompañan o sustituyen el pavo con tamales, pozole, pupusas, arroz con habichuelas, lechón o lomo al horno, tostones, mondongo, entre otras delicias.

Es importante tomar en cuenta que para las culturas de diferentes países las celebraciones que unen las temporadas del otoño e invierno abundan, algunas se asocian con la cosecha, las migraciones de aves, de mariposas, o bien, como antesala de la navidad, encuentro cultura.

En el estado de Michoacán se conjunta la visita al Santuario de la Mariposa Monarca con la visita a la espectacular Feria de las Esferas de Vidrio en el Pueblo Mágico de Tlapujahua, con esferas navideñas que superan los diseños tradicionales explorando diseños con mariposas monarca y motivos florales.

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En la ciudad de Guadalajara, el último fin de semana de noviembre se lleva a cabo la Feria Internacional del Libro rodeada de una serie de actividades culturales que complementan las presentaciones de libros por parte de grandes escritores, editores y científicos en la Feria Internacional del Libro, así como exposiciones de Artes visuales, obras teatrales, cine, conciertos y, por supuesto, un tour gastronómico que no debe faltar.

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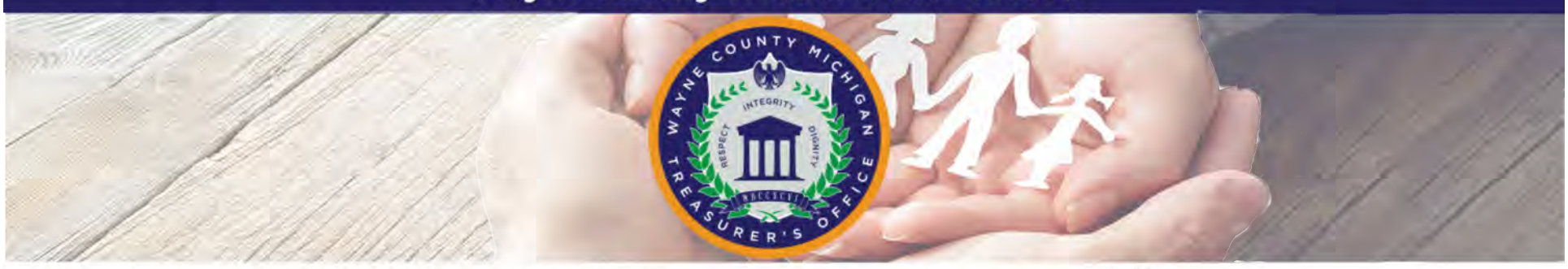

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